

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

NAP's mission is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and foster an environmental ethic within the community.

Thank you, volunteers.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL at NAP's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party! Deputy Manager Remy Long addressed the party guests, honoring the hard work and dedication of the NAP community. We are happy to share a version of Remy's remarks here.



First let me say thank you for the ways you've welcomed me to the NAP community over the past eight months. I've had mammoth boots to fill since Dave's departure, and I can say with certainty that it has been made possible by the NAP staff – all of them – who rose to the occasion and made this transition in leadership possible. Their commitment to this mission, their openness to change and the thoughtfulness with which they approach their work is exceptional.

RIGHT HERE, we have proof of this robust conservation ethic and communal response, supporting and safeguarding ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE.

While they are an impressive staff, the weight of the NAP mandate to protect and restore our natural areas rests on the collective shoulders of a far bigger community – where the bulk of our strength is embodied by **you, our volunteers**. That strength is an inspiration.

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THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH NAP to act as the transitional STEWARDS OF THESE LANDS and working to see that they are honored and cared for as they should be.

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I'm heartened by your eagerness to share your energy and experiences with NAP, and I'm stunned by the work you do.

Since my first weeks at NAP it has been so clear that the mainspring of our success is our volunteer community, and each way you contribute: as Park Stewards, at workdays, events, and across the collective hours and seasons spent supporting these natural areas.

There are 2,200 acres of parkland in the City of Ann Arbor, 1,400 acres of which fall under NAP's jurisdiction – nearly two-thirds. The equivalent of over 1,000 football fields. We – staff and volunteers – are tasked with supporting the natural communities that depend upon this land, and with cultivating a human connection to these spaces. It is a staggering responsibility, and one that NAP – the institution – could never do alone.

I've learned so much already from NAP staff and NAP's Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Tina Stephens, about volunteerism – and what it can offer a cause and a community. Our conversations have had me reflect on my own volunteer experiences and their value:

I spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer. It was the classic image of a Peace Corps service: remote location, rustic quarters, blazing heat, distressing diet, scant amenities, laboring in the fields, sweating through the nights, ephemeral relief.

Yet, when you think about it carefully – despite its challenges – elements of that volunteer experience require less determination and spirit than the work NAP volunteers do. In the Peace Corps there is no Option B, no private shower to ease into, no TV to get lost in, no restaurant to go out to, and no friends and family to detract from your time spent in service.

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Thank you, community sponsors.

We were able to thank our volunteers in style, due to the generosity of the businesses and organizations that donated door prizes for the party.

Blom Meadworks
MEAD GLASSES, COASTERS,
AND TEMPORARY TATTOOS

Cabela's
\$25 GIFT CARDS

***Downtown Home
and Garden***
\$25 GIFT CARDS



Gallup Canoe Livery
\$22 GIFT CERTIFICATES

***Leslie Science & Nature
Center and Ann Arbor
Hands-On Museum***
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Motawi Tileworks
DECORATIVE TILE

Veterans Ice Arena
PUBLIC SKATING PUNCH PASS

Washtenaw Audubon
T-SHIRT AND HAT

Wild Birds Unlimited
BIRD HOUSE GIFT BASKET

WildType Nursery
\$25 GIFT CARDS

Zingerman's
9-INCH CAKE CERTIFICATE

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But outside of the Peace Corps there are creature comforts, distractions, pushes and pulls – all of the perfect conditions to deter one from building community and serving a larger purpose. I’m in awe of what you all willingly and purposefully choose to do with your time in these natural sanctuaries within the city. It is a clear testament to your conservation ethics, and your commitment to safeguarding these precious resources for current and future generations.

Aldo Leopold wrote, “One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.” From my earliest years as a conservationist I’ve struggled with that notion. Yes, humans have left countless marks on our natural world – devastating, pervasive, ongoing. But Leopold expressed that sentiment back in 1949, and I think context matters – and in this case warrants updating.

ALL FOR THE BOBOLINK, for the monarch, for the oak saplings, and the next generation of human beneficiaries of these lands.

In 2022, we must consider the vast evidence of conservation success stories playing out across the globe – innumerable examples of people and communities at various scales with dedicated, mobilized, thoughtful responses to the climate crisis, to safeguarding water quality, and to supporting resilient ecosystems. These cases for optimism don’t disregard damages done, but our current context expands that historical paradigm of isolation and harm to reflect the progression toward ecological consciousness and an active environmental community, working to correct imbalances and heal wounds where possible.

I think there is no better example of that than the NAP mission and the volunteer community here in Ann Arbor. Right here, we have proof of this robust conservation ethic and communal response, supporting and safeguarding ecological resilience. I know it is a



responsibility none of you take lightly –we’ve seen this NAP community grow and grow, and repeatedly endeavor, week by week, season by season, to bring forth the resilient and adaptive future these natural communities need to thrive. That we *need* to thrive.

And what specifically gives me hope for our future, and the future of my children, is the willingness of good people to do good work within whatever context they are. For me, that hope is all of you. Doing incredible work for an urgent cause – as a community. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

Thank you, for your creativity!

Party guests shared their creative side with us by painting rocks and drawing with chalk—thank you for your inspiration!



As for NAP, the institution, we're not without our bureaucratic red tape – we know – but we are committed to bringing forth the necessary and thoughtful response to the challenges faced by the City's natural areas. We are a feature of the city parks system that enacts the will of this community's forward-thinking voters who continue to renew and support the millage that funds NAP's work, and we are so grateful to take part in the expression of this community's conservation ethic.

You all work to tackle an embattled scene of invasives and human indifference – and I hope you never lose sight of what it is for: all for the bobolink, for the monarch, for the oak saplings and for the next generation of human beneficiaries of these lands. Thank you for setting aside

your creature comforts, and for giving your energy to this mission. Thank you for working with NAP to act as the transitional stewards of these lands and working to see that they are honored and cared for as they should be. Again, thank you for the ways you've welcomed me into this NAP community, and I look forward to working alongside all of you in the years ahead. 🍷



NAPPENINGS

Staff Updates

Welcome...



Beth Weiler
Conservation Worker

Hello! I am a recent graduate of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, where I studied pollinators and

their habitat in urban areas. I love all things ecology and am an insect and herpetofauna enthusiast. My favorite place to be is on the edge of a vernal pool at midnight. I enjoy practicing nature photography, spending time with my dog Birdie and boa constrictor Rex, and of course exploring Ann Arbor's natural areas. I'm very happy to be working with NAP to conserve those areas and get others excited about nature!



Jess Einck
Conservation Worker

Hi there! I'm joining NAP after spending the season on the Invasive Plant Treatment/Restoration team at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

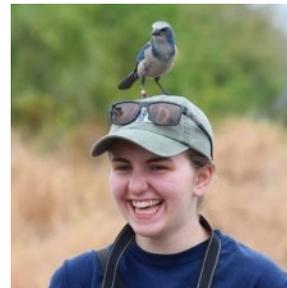
I graduated from the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability in May 2021, where I earned a Master of Science in Conservation Ecology and was a member of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Master's Project. I'm excited to be back in the area and helping to restore Ann Arbor's natural areas.



Megan Livingston
Conservation Worker

Hi! I'm a recent graduate from the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, where I earned a Master of Science

with a concentration in Ecosystem Science and Management. I'm very passionate about the natural communities and native plants in southeast Michigan and love being in the field, so I'm extremely excited to be working with an organization that allows me to focus on those things! In my free time I like to explore natural areas, and tend to my native plant gardens.



Kirstin Palumbo
Conservation Worker

Hi, I'm Kirstin and I graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Wildlife Biology. I love working outside and have a special

interest in threatened/endangered plant and animal ecology. Since 2018, I have had the opportunity to work various environmental jobs across Michigan and have grown fond of the natural beauty that this state has to offer. I am excited to work with NAP and become part of the effort to protect Ann Arbor's natural areas, while having the opportunity to explore and enjoy them!

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

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NAPPENINGS

Welcome, new Park Stewards!

Liz Giessner
Oakwoods Nature Area

Don Giacherio
Dicken Woods Nature Area

Jen Rutkeiwicz
Dicken Woods Nature Area

Lisa Johnson
Hannah Nature Area
(*Miller Nature Area Steward since 2019*)

Thank you!

Many thanks to the groups who volunteered with NAP in September and October. We could not make such a difference without you!

- Criteo
- EMU Women's Swim/Dive Team
- Treetown Tech
- Toyota R&D Saline
- UM Chemistry Department
- UM Chi Psi
- UM Delta Epsilon Mu
- UM Indian American Student Association
- UM Michigan Community Scholars Program
- UM Neuroscience Student Association
- UM Pi Tau Sigma
- UM Redefined
- UM Running Club
- UM School for Environment and Sustainability PhD Students
- UM Student Veterans of America
- Youth for Understanding



A special thank you to Craig Perdue, our inimitable Outreach and Inventory volunteer, AND the NAP volunteer with the most hours in the past year! This photo is of

Craig's owl, Rupert, who works with Craig as an owl ambassador educating groups about owls and ecology.

EVENTS

November-December Volunteer Workdays

Find full details at a2gov.org/NAPEvents

- Brokaw Nature Area 11/5
- Barton Nature Area 11/6
- Bluffs Nature Area 11/6
- Ruthven Nature Area 11/12
- Mary Beth Doyle Park 11/13
- Black Pond Woods Nature Area 11/19
- Cedar Bend Nature Area 11/19
- Marshall Nature Area 11/20
- Bandemer Park 12/3
- Bird Hills Nature Area 12/4
- Hannah Nature Area 12/10
- Braun Nature Area 12/11

Winter Nature Walks

Nature walks are a collaboration between the Ann Arbor District Library and Natural Area Preservation. Some of AADL's Science Tools will be available to admire! Registration is strongly encouraged so we can accommodate everyone.

Nature Walk at Ruthven Nature Area

Sunday, November 27, 1 to 2 p.m.

Did you know that Ruthven Nature Area is an excellent example of glacial terrain? The topography of the park includes both a kame and a kettle area. Come join NAP and the Ann Arbor District Library to explore what those terms mean, and learn more about the habitats and diversity of Ruthven at a nature walk. Park at the Gallup boat dock parking lot at the southeast corner of Huron Parkway and Geddes Road, then use the Geddes crosswalk to meet for the nature walk on the northeast corner of the intersection (look for the NAP truck) (map: tinyurl.com/GallupBoatDock). Register at tinyurl.com/RuthvenWalk112722.

Nature Walk at Black Pond Woods Nature Area

Saturday, December 31, 1 to 2 p.m.

Carved by receding glaciers, Black Pond is named for a small, vernal pond. Its dark brown water is colored by tannins and humic acids from decomposing leaf litter. Since there are no incoming springs or streams, the water in the pond is collected entirely from rainfall that drains into the basin. Join NAP and the Ann Arbor District Library for a crisp winter walk to learn about the nature area's three distinctive habitat types. And leave a little time in your schedule to visit the raptors at the adjacent Leslie Science and Nature Center! Meet at the Leslie Science & Nature Center parking lot (1831 Traver Road) (map: tinyurl.com/BlackPondLSNC). Register at tinyurl.com/BPWWalk123122.

PHOTOS FROM RECENT PRIVATE GROUPS



CRITEO

Bird Hills Nature Area, Sept. 27



UM DELTA EPSILON MU—WORLD RIVERS DAY

Argo Nature Area, Sept. 25



TOYOTA R&D SALINE—NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Oakwoods Nature Area, Sept. 24



INDIAN AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Mary Beth Doyle Park, Oct. 2



UM REDEFINED

Barton Nature Area, Oct. 8



EMU WOMEN'S SWIM & DIVE TEAM

Marshall Nature Area, Oct. 15